1. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m.

   a. Attendance:
      a. First Selectman Fred Camillo - Present
      b. Selectwoman Lauren Rabin – Present via Zoom
      c. Select-person Janet Stone McGuigan – Present

2. Approval of minutes

   a. Regular meeting April 28, 2022

      Upon a motion by Ms. Rabin and a second by Ms. Stone McGuigan, the minutes were approved unanimously.

   a. Special meeting April 28, 2022

      Upon a motion by Ms. Rabin and a second by Ms. Stone McGuigan, the minutes were approved unanimously.

   b. Regular meeting May 26, 2022

      Upon a motion by Ms. Rabin and a second by Ms. Stone McGuigan, the minutes were approved unanimously.

   c. Special meeting May 26, 2022

      Upon a motion by Ms. Rabin and a second by Ms. Stone McGuigan, the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. First Selectman’s Updates
Mr. Camillo gave a preview of several upcoming events throughout Town. He also spoke of his upcoming meetings June 17 with the Connecticut Department of Transportation regarding I-95 rehabilitation and noise pollution, as well as CT 169 Strong which is comprised of municipal officials in the region concerned about affordable housing issues with 8-30g.

4. Selectmen’s Updates

Selectwoman Rabin spoke of the Re-Imagine Greenwich Free Music Fridays program beginning June 10 and with select evening concerts during the summer. Re-Imagine Greenwich is raising money for decorative skins to be placed on the dining nodes.

Ms. Stone McGuigan said she attended the Western Connecticut Council of Governments meeting and plans to attend the Pride month proclamation and flag-raising on June 14, the electrify your life expo sponsored by the Conservation Commission. She also said she participated in ‘no mow May’ and plans to propose

5. Old Business

a. Lease renewal: Abilis, 101 Orchard St., the Contemporary House on the Pomerance property (second read) – Assistant Town Attorney Valerie Maze Keeney.

Assistant Town Attorney Valerie Maze Keeney explained the changes to the lease terms and that once approved, the lease would be forwarded to the Planning & Zoning Commission for a Municipal Improvement approval.

Upon a motion by Ms. Rabin and a second by Ms. Stone McGuigan, the lease was approved unanimously.

6. New Business

a. Amendment to traffic ordinance: No parking zone Perna Lane. Deputy Police Chief Kraig Gray and Senior Civil Engineer Gabriella Circosta-Cohee.

Deputy Chief Gray gave an overview of the proposed change, explaining that it comes after years of complaints about vehicle safety. Parking services and the Public Works department studied the issue.

Several residents spoke about the proposal.

Marcella Bravo, 18 Perna Lane: said there aren't any safety concerns and there haven't been any accidents; asked who filed the complaints.
Marilyn Corzo, 18 Perna Lane: as a 30-year resident, she has not witnessed any accidents or near misses. She provided a photo array to illustrate there isn’t a need for a no parking zone; there are at least 25 children in the neighborhood; the Federal Highway Administration says that parked cars reducing speeding; changing the ordinance is precedent setting – all roads in town should be reviewed.

Nancy Fantin, 10 Perna Lane: She lives on the Wescott end of the street, drivers ignore the stop sign at the intersection; there is plenty of room to park on Perna; her concern is that parking will be moved closer to her home and create obstacles, making it more difficult for her to walk as she is legally blind.

Bob Mazza: said the proposed amendment is not a solution to the traffic problems; Perna Lana Lane used to be a dead-end street.

Audra O’Donovan: she has 3 children and with speeding motorists, children cannot play in the street; most homes have 1-car garages and nowhere else to park; school bus service is not available to the 25-plus children who live in the neighborhood, so many walk to nearby schools.

Paul Fix, 36 Perna Lane: said the issue is speeding cars his mailbox was hit by a passing vehicle; he is terrified to walk on the street.

Jack Campisi, 16 Perna Lane: he lives on the corner and can park his vehicle safely.

Kathleen Willsey, 11 Perna Lane: has lived on there for 70 years, there hasn’t been an accident and remembers when it was a dirt road and a dead end; she along with other neighbors have carved out parking spaces on their lawns in front of their homes; her 98-year-old mother has caretakers who will have nowhere to park.

Jenn Zazula, 15 Perna Lane: as a mother of 8 children who walk to school, she is concerned about safety.

Mr. Camillo ended the public comment section stating there will be a second read on the proposal and that something will have to be done to slow down traffic.

b. Municipal Improvement: Greenwich Avenue intersection improvements – Arch/Havemeyer and Fawcett/Grigg – Deputy Public Works Commissioner Jim Michel.

Mr. Michel provided an overview of the projects which he said adds 12 parking spaces, creates more pedestrian safety by reducing the crossing distance – with 800-plus pedestrians at Arch Street on a Saturday; improves ADA accessibility and adds landscaping.
Mr. Camillo said that with the Elm Street bumpouts, vehicles are not speeding; the projects will be fully paid for with state transportation grants and cannot be used for other projects. He also said the war memorial will not be impacted and that there will be a pathway created to the memorial.

Ms. Stone McGuigan said the renderings do not show outdoor dining and was appreciative that there will be accommodations for bike racks.

Ms. Rabin said the First Selectman’s Re-Imagine Greenwich committee supports the projects.

Christina Volkwein of RTM District 2: Her questions: why the transportation grant application did not include a check for the box asking whether the project is in a historic district; whether parking will be taken away from Greenwich Avenue between Arch and Grigg streets; requested documents regarding protected open space; said she counted five, not four crossing points.

Mr. Michel responded that the entire project is within the Town of Greenwich RoW.

David Wold: said he wanted to address the historical perspective of the veterans memorials; that all 3 memorials will be disrupted by the work that is in a dedicated historical site; the work is in a historic district; that DPW plans do not include the WWI memorial at the plaza.

Mr. Michel said these are preliminary designs.

Don Sylvester: said the intersection was built 100 years ago as the center of Greenwich; questioned whether Greenwich Police and Fire departments agree with the design; there is a need for a traffic cop on Greenwich Avenue.

Jane Sprung, RTM District 10: said there remains great community divide on the bumpouts as the project was approved by a 16-vote margin by the RTM; questioned how many parking spaces on Greenwich Avenue will be lost even with the addition of 12 spaces on Arch Street; expressed concern that her elderly in-laws can no longer park close to their Greenwich Avenue destination – that the needs of the elderly should be taken into consideration.

Louisa Stone, RTM District 10: expressed concern over the loss of lawns and damage to trees; suggested consideration of a public survey to determine if residents want police returned to directing Greenwich Avenue traffic and bumpouts.

Davidde Strackbein: chair of the Greenwich 375th committee: spoke of the historic nature of the area and referenced the municipal historic district sign and the Civil War stone installed in 1914 by 25 Greenwich Civil War veterans.
7. Public Comment.

There was none

8. Appointments/Nominations

There were none.

9. Adjournment

At 12:01 p.m., Ms. Rabin made a motion to adjourn. Upon a second by Ms. Stone McGuigan, the motion was approved unanimously.

Prepared by Barbara A. Heins,
Recording Secretary